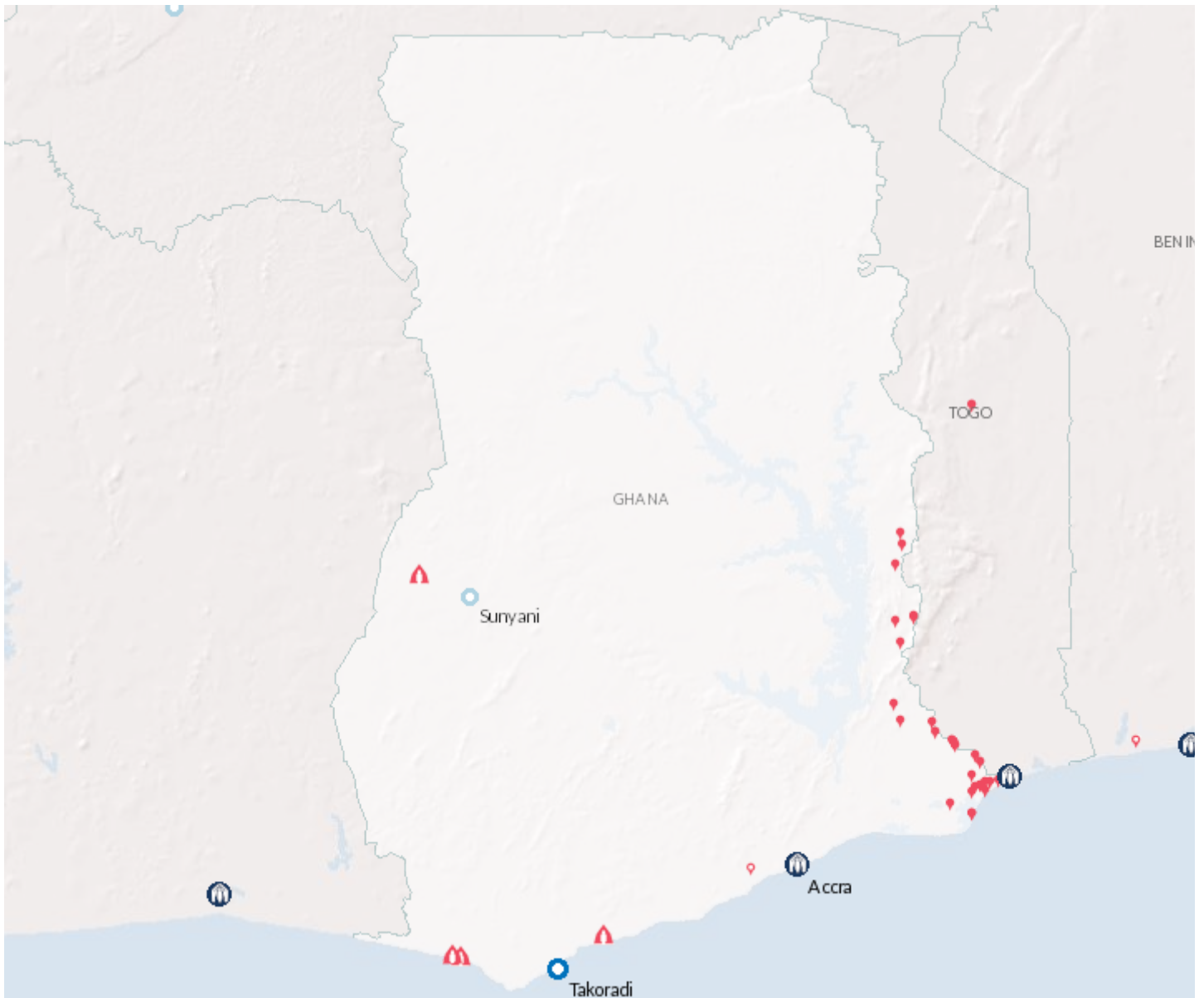


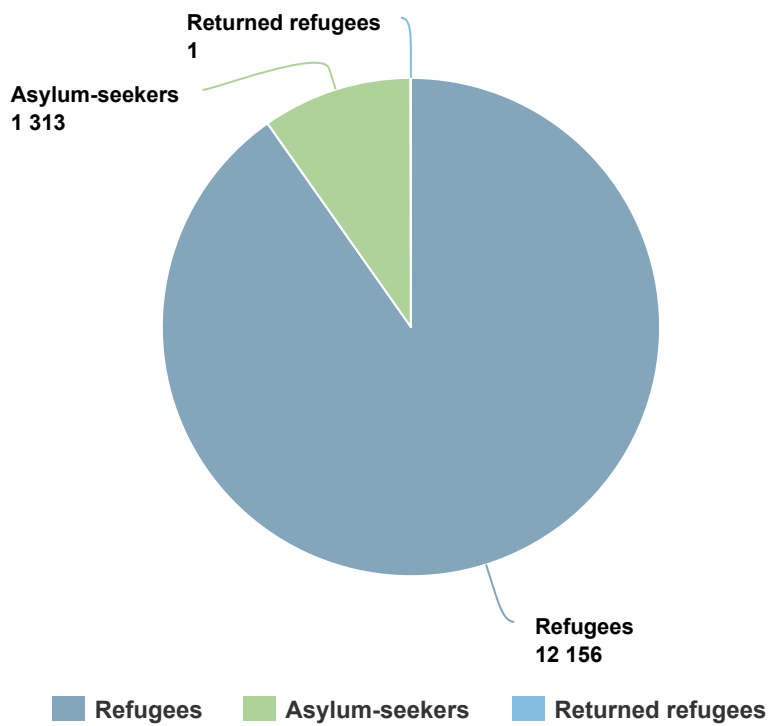
Operation: Ghana



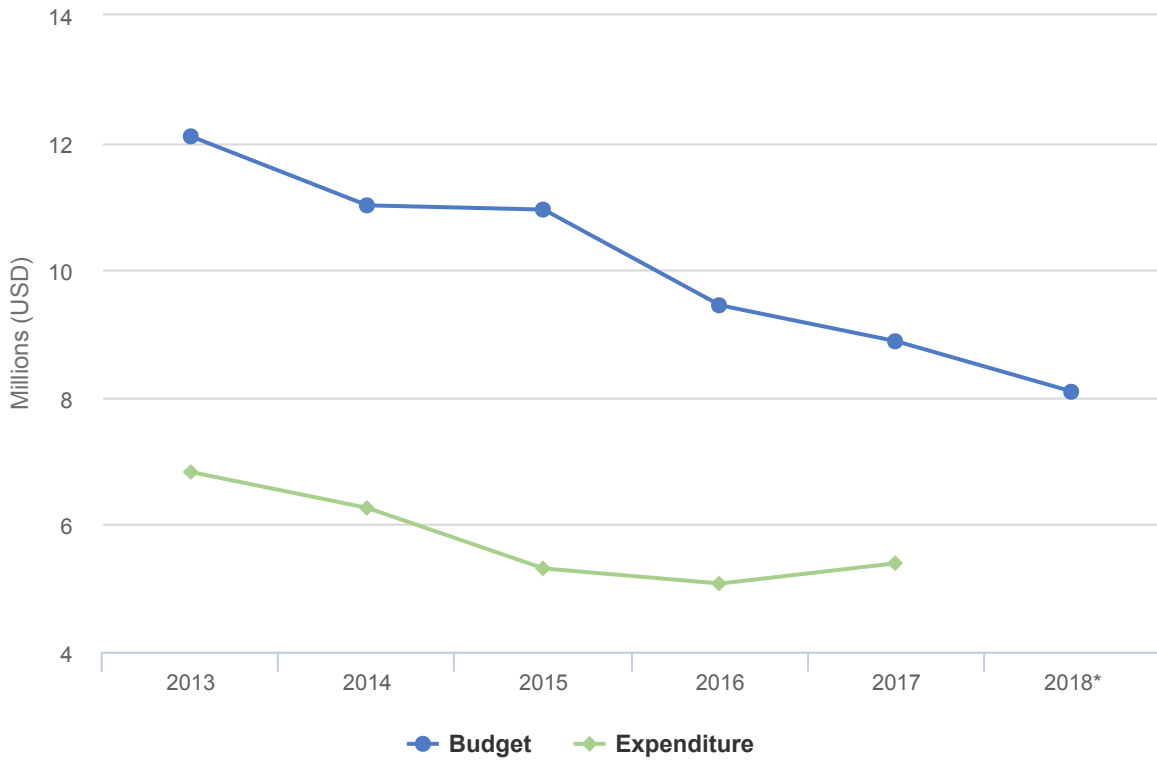
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
2% 2017

2017	13,470
2016	13,236
2015	19,265



Budgets and Expenditure for Ghana



Operational context

The operational environment in Ghana remained stable throughout the year.

In Ghana, the UNDAF was replaced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDPF) Framework 2018–2022, which sets out the strategic priorities for partnership between the UN and the Government of Ghana. UNSDPF targets support the implementation of national development strategies and the achievement of global development, human rights and environment commitments. Out of the four result groups in the UNSDP, refugees have been included in two: 1) social investment in people; and 2) inclusive, equitable and accountable governance.

Registration, refugee status determination (RSD) and issuance of individual documentation has been handed entirely over to the Government. At the end of August 2017, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), the first instance national adjudicating body, was fully reconstituted with a Chairman. However, GRB did not adjudicate on any cases in 2017. Therefore, approximately 1,300 asylum-seekers in Ghana faced a prolonged waiting period from the time of registration to final decision. To address the backlog, UNHCR assessed the training needs of the new GRB and provided training and resources for RSD in 2017.

The Government rolled out a policy of free public Senior High School (SHS) in September 2017, under which the Government absorbed all school fees. The understanding reached with GRB and school authorities ensured that eligible refugees benefited from SHS policy.

Population trends

At the end of 2017, the population of concern in Ghana stood at 13,500 refugees and asylum-seekers – similar to figures from the end of 2016 - consisting of close to 6,400 females and some 7,100 males mainly from Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

A verification exercise conducted at the end of the year for Togolese in the Volta Region of Ghana accounted for the slight increase from 2016 figures, mainly due to newborn registration. Furthermore, the National Disaster Management Organization reported the arrival of some 500 Togolese in three communities in the Northern Region of Ghana at the end of September 2017.

Interest in voluntary repatriation remained low while, due to no passports being issued, local integration was not implemented, including for some 570 Liberians who opted to locally integrate.

Key achievements

- In July 2017, UNHCR organized a national workshop on local integration (LI), which ensured an initial approval to include all refugee groups in the Multi-Year Multi-Partner (MYMP) Protection and Solution Strategy. The GRB requested approval to the Minister of the Interior for indefinite residence status and/or naturalization. LI opportunities for each population group are subject to final endorsement by the Government.
- In line with the strategic objective in the MYMP to maintain an efficient asylum system, in 2017 the operation migrated the registration database from proGres to proGres v4: a web-based registration database.
- UNHCR and the Government of Ghana successfully concluded a MoU for access to proGres v4 and, as a result, UNHCR handed over the registration and documentation to the GRB.
- With the administrative integration of camp schools into the national education system fully achieved, UNHCR concluded a MoU with Varkey Foundation which has introduced interactive distance learning and after school sessions for out-of-school children in Ampain camp.

- UNHCR and the NGO Worldreader Ghana have entered into an agreement to introduce the Worldreader E-Reading Project in Krisan and Egyeikrom refugee camp schools with the objective to help children learn how to read.
- With UNHCR's advocacy, the Minister responsible for Social Protection has decreed that refugees should be included in the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme.
- To further the inclusion of refugees in the national Social Protection Policy in 2015, the Ghana School Feeding Programme under the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection approved camp schools for school feeding programmes in 2017.

Unmet needs

- 60 per cent of the Ivorian refugee population continue to live in inadequate shelters almost six years after their arrival. Only a limited number of families were supported by UNHCR to improve and upgrade their housing with shelter kits and technical guidance.
 - The needs for laboratory services and diagnostic capacity for health service at the camp level were not met. Provision of these services would have reduced the need for referrals and the associated cost.
 - The results of the Wealth Ranking Exercise conducted in 2016 showed that a significant number of people of concern are in need of support but due to budgetary constraints, the operation was unable to extend cash assistance to cover all of them in 2017.
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